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Eleventh Meeting, April 22nd.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Lord Colville ; Rev. E. Graham Moon ; Vice-Chancellor Sir John Stuart ; Rev. W. H. Walker ; and John Anderson ; W. John Legh, M.P. ; Peter Morrison ; G. Moore Robertson ; and J. Ralph Shaw, Esqrs., were presented upon their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*The Rev. S. F. Cresswell ; Colonels John Gardner and Nicholson, R.E. ; the Hon. J. F. Stuart Wortley ; and James F. Beckett, R.N. ; Oswald Bloxsome ; G. Farmer Miller ; A. Fullerton Mollison ; J. Carrick Moore, M.A., F.R.S. ; and H. S. Dazley Smith, M.A., Esqrs., were proposed as Candidates for election at the ensuing meeting.*

ACCESSIONS.—Among the Accessions to the Library and Map Rooms since the last meeting were Vol. XII. of Reports, Explorations, and Surveys for Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean ; American Almanac for 1861 ; Report of International Statistical Congress of 1860 ; Chart of the Arctic Regions ; Geological Survey Map of Victoria ; Maps of Iceland, Norway ; Continuation of the Ordnance Survey Maps, &c. &c.

ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Chairman expressed his regret that the President, Lord Ashburton, was detained by illness at home, and announced that the President's soirées would be held on the 15th of May and the 5th of June at Bath House, Piccadilly.

The Papers read were—

1. *Latest Intelligence from Dr. Livingstone and his Party in Central Africa.*

Communicated by Sir R. I. MURCHISON and Sir G. BACK.

FEELING in honour bound to take the Makololo back to their own country, and disliking to remain quiet while waiting for his new steamer, Dr. Livingstone left Tete on May 16, 1860, and travelled to Sesheke, a distance of some 600 miles. During their five years, sojourn at Tete, many of the Makololo had married slave women and had families. These Dr. Livingstone had expected would be disinclined to return with him, and he repeatedly gave them their option of remaining. However, they behaved badly, for they started in his company, and afterwards ran away on the march. The route of the party lay along the north bank of the Zambesi, crossing the mountain mass in which Kebrabrassa lies, and the rivers Loangua and Kafue at their confluences, then along the fine fertile valley of the Zambesi (being new ground) for about 100 miles ;

then turning westward in lat. $17^{\circ} 18'$ S. up a sandy river, the Zongue, till they saw the source of the fragments of coal strewn on its bed; then ascended about 2000 feet above the Zambesi, or 3300 above the level of the sea, where there was actually hoar-frost, and descended on the other side into the great valley of the Makololo. The columns of vapour from the Victoria Falls were seen by the naked eye at a distance of twenty miles, and the party went out of their way to visit them. Dr. Livingstone thinks he had understated everything about them except the height of the columns of vapour. The depth of the fall is not 100, but fully 310 feet. The breadth from bank to bank is not 1000 yards, but between 1860 and 2000 yards. On this occasion the river was at extreme low water, so that people could even wade from the north bank to Garden Island, to make a stockade for the protection of the seeds. The hippopotami had eaten up nearly all that the Doctor had planted on his previous visit. The lips of the fissure which runs across the river, and into which the entire body of water falls, are 80 feet apart opposite to Garden Island. The arrangement of the fissures is at first something like the letter T, the horizontal bar of the letter corresponding to the cross fissure, and the vertical stem to the commencement of a continuous series of zigzag cracks, at the bottom of which, far below the generally level surface of the land, the river takes its onward course. Sekeletu was found labouring under a skin disease, and many headmen had been executed for the alleged crime of having caused it by their witchcraft. A party of London missionaries had been to Linyanti, where, during a stay of only three months, six out of the nine Europeans which composed it perished: the remainder had left. Dr. Livingstone regrets that he had not been by to give them his long-tried remedies for fever. Returning to Tete, he visited the river twice between the Falls and Sinamanes, and on both occasions found it running at the bottom of a deep crack. He mentions that Mr. Moffat informed him that all the rivers in Moselikatze's country run N.W. or N.N.W., and that they enter the Zambesi *above* Sinamanes. Dr. Livingstone took canoes at Sinamanes, where the level of the Zambesi was found by boiling-water observation to be 1600 feet lower than at the Falls, and continued his route down the stream in order to examine the river at low water. Kausalo presented no difficulty; Kariba, a few miles below it, is a basaltic dyke, stretched across the stream, with a wide opening in it, dangerous for heavily-laden canoes, whose gunwales are only 6 inches above the water. At Mburumas there is a rapid of 100 yards in length, running at six knots an hour. This is the most rapid part that has been seen in the whole river. Below Chicova, four and a half knots had been the extreme rate at the time of the

upward journey, but on return to the same place the falling of the river had developed several dangerous rapids, and even cataracts. There would seem to be a trap-dyke here, like that of Kariba, but with two openings, through one or other of which the canoes must have passed. There was a large seam of fine coal in the bank at this place, and another in the bank at Manyerire Hill; besides seeing fragments of the mineral in many rivulets on both banks, the existence of the coal-field at Zambo was verified, and was found to extend nearly to Sinamanes. The only real difficulty in the river is that at Morumbua; and this could be passed in full flood, as a rise of 80 feet must smooth it over.

"On arriving here (at Tete, September, 1860) two days ago, we had travelled from Linyanti and back, some 1400 miles, the greater part on foot. We have thus kept faith with the Makololo, though we have done nothing else. We were swamped once, but the men behaved admirably, leaping out and swimming alongside, till we got into smooth water. In another place one canoe was upset and property lost. We then abandoned the canoes and came home on foot, thankful to say, 'All well.'"

The CHAIRMAN said their thanks were certainly due to Dr. Livingstone and his brother for the valuable communications which had been read. His distinguished friend Dr. Livingstone had been pleased to say that he had done little more than take his friends the Makololo back to their native region, but the gentlemen present who had heard the papers read would admit that he had added very considerably to their knowledge. And if Dr. Livingstone had done nothing more than realise the promise he made to the Africans that he would return and conduct them to their home, he had not only redeemed his pledge, but had raised the character of England throughout Southern Africa. Dr. Livingstone had given us a large amount of geological and mineralogical knowledge which would be very valuable. He (Sir Roderick) thought that while Dr. Livingstone was engaged in his explorations they should cheer him on, to show that his labours had been received with applause by the Royal Geographical Society, and that they wished to encourage him. He could not but congratulate the Government on having appointed Dr. Livingstone to be not only the British Consul at the mouths of the Zambesi, there to point out to British merchants what advantages might be derived from people dealing with the natives, but also for having accredited him, as it were, to the tribes of South Africa. Thus, he had power to proceed to the interior of that country, and there sow those seeds of civilization which would redound to the honour of the British name.

ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE BACK said it might be interesting to the meeting to know that Dr. Livingstone in a letter to him stated that the temperature in the Batoka country at three o'clock in the afternoon was 136 degrees, and the thermometer was often over 100 degrees on the shady side of his person; and furthermore, his blood showed a temperature of $99\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, while that of the natives was only 98 degrees; but the most remarkable feature in the climate was the rate of evaporation, there being a difference of 33 to 36, and even 40 degrees, between the wet and dry bulbs of the thermometer. And then, as regarded the fatal fever from which both the Makololo and some missionaries had severely suffered, Dr. Livingstone had discovered a remedy

which had been found effectual in curing the disease ever since 1850. This he did not like to make a fuss about, notwithstanding the frequent opportunities that had occurred for testing its valuable properties.

CONSUL HANSON said,—However much the Africans might be divided into different tribes, there yet seemed to be an undercurrent which tended to prove that they were everywhere the same family. He felt that Dr. Livingstone had achieved a greater measure of success than, perhaps, any other European who had ever gone amongst the Africans with a view of understanding them. He had himself seen a great many Englishmen in Africa, and had noticed the different points of view from which they looked at the people. He believed that one part of the success of Dr. Livingstone was attributable to the temper of the man himself—that he looked at the people from the right point of view—he went amongst them, dealt with them, treated them with kindness and as men. Men of different temperaments would, perhaps, have spoken of them as uncivilised, rude, barbarous, naked savages, who were beneath contempt; but it was not so with him. Dr. Livingstone knew that, though he went to further the purposes of this Society, he had also another and higher object in view, and that was, to diffuse amongst them the glorious light of the Gospel of his blessed Master; and he (Consul Hanson) believed that wherever travellers treated the Africans with kindness and with courtesy they would in like manner be met with kindness, hospitality, and favour. It was because Dr. Livingstone had ever kept faith with them that they on their part kept faith with him; and he believed that the same kind of feeling would continue mutually to exist.

The second Paper read was—

2. *Communication from Bishop Mackenzie, of the United University Central African Mission, to Sydney Strong, Esq.*

BISHOP MACKENZIE arrived off the Kongone mouth of the Zambesi early in February, where he found not only Livingstone and his associates, but also the remainder of his own party who had preceded him in Livingstone's new steamer, the *Pioneer*. Livingstone was about to start immediately to explore the Rufuma river, in hopes of discovering by its waters a more convenient access to the Nyassa and Shire district. He strongly urged the Bishop not to settle until that expedition had been completed; for there was no single chief to whom he could recommend him with confidence, and that if he landed his goods close to the sea-shore, the persons in charge of them would be sure to take fever. Yielding reluctantly to these and other reasons, it was agreed that the Bishop and one companion should join Livingstone's expedition up the Rufuma, and that the remainder of the missionary party should await their return at Johanna, one of the Comoro Islands, and perfectly healthy. This determination was at once carried into effect, and the parties went on their several routes without delay.

After a few concluding observations by the Chairman, the meeting was then adjourned to May 13.